

SCARED THE RED MEN

HOW A CROWD OF CATTLEMEN BROKE UP A GHOST DANCE.

A Roman Candle Bombardment That Stampeded the Three Hundred Braves and Started Them on a Run That Lasted Into the Next Day.

"We never called Rooney by the name of Jack, although his Christian name was John, and in the cattle country they were few men named after Christ's chief disciple who was not known as Jack. We always called him John Rooney. The last I ever heard of him he was living up in Nebraska, not far from Ogallala, on the south fork of the Platte, just after the stream leaves the Colorado line."

Thus discoursed a former cattleman, who is now pursuing a peaceful and commonplace life in Kansas City, the other evening. He was talking of life on the big cattle range in the days when the fame of Dodge City, Abilene, Hayes City and Ellis was on the wane as tough towns of Kansas and their upbuilding as law abiding communities had begun.

"In them days," he continued, "our openings for fun was less frequent than national holidays are at present. It was mostly hard riding, and lots of it. It gives us all a sort of yearning to bust loose the cinches and raise hell at the first opportunity, and sometimes the way we did it was as unique as they was startling. The time I speak of in this pertickler yarn we was grazing a big bunch of cattle, mostly long horns, in the Cherokee strip, along the north fork of the Canadian river, within a day's riding of old Fort Supply. The Osages and some other tribes used to come in there for their green corn and harvest dances and have highfalootin ole times in general. We all remarks this and speaks of it sorter scornful because we did not like Indians much now. When I say this, I don't mean that Rooney was the one to put the quirt to the Indians. He was over quiet on the subject. He generally was peaceful and calm. He was a thinker, Rooney was, and with some schooling and a little politics would have been a great man in the city I low."

"About this time the camp begins to get short on grub, and some four or five of the boys was sent to Medicine Lodge, across the Kansas line, with wagons to bring back a supply of necessities. Kansas was not a prohibition state then, and you could get most any kind of stimulant in Medicine Lodge—that is to say, they had rye and Bourbon whiskey, and I suppose they also had beer. In them days I never could see the virtues of beer."

"As I was saying, you could get about any kind of liquor you wanted in Medicine Lodge, and so we kept pretty well wet. Rooney here displayed his sagacity. While we all had forgotten all about them pesky Indians he comes in one day we was to leave and puts into the wagon about 20 of them big roman candles that shoot ten times, you know, each shot a big ball of yellow, red or bluish flame."

"What you going to do with them Fourth of July fixings now?" we all asks, seeing as how it was getting closer to Thanksgiving."

"Never you mind that," said John, kinder winking his eye southeast."

"So we all was mighty curious during the trip back to the Canadian, but says nothing. A few days after we gets back then Indians begins gathering for a annual feast of some kind, and then one night they prepares for one of them dances. Of course, all of the boys what could be spared wanted off to see the money business of them redskins. Then John Rooney, he called a council of war and unfolded the secret of them roman candles what he bought at Medicine Lodge. He tells all the boys, some 15 in number, to stay with him, and leads the way to the timber, where the ghost dance was going on. We all takes one of them roman candles and no one speaks a word or coughs or makes any loud signs."

"When them 300 braves was a-tearing up the ground and yelling at the height of the dance, we gets the word from Rooney and lights up them candles simultaneous, and they begin shooting fire and brimstone into them Indians sure enough. The boys wasn't used to shooting off them things and was about half scared themselves at the devilish hissing and the sparks, but them Indians—well, I can't say what they thought, but it was plain how they acted. Some of 'em took to the other side of the woods, some jumped straight up, a lot went for the north fork of the Canadian, running so fast it 'ud take four men to see 'em. Stop then? Well, I guess not. They jumped right in and swum for dear life. They never stopped to see that the blamed fire had quit, and fellers working on the range the other side of the fork said they saw them running the next morning when they was just starting their day's riding."

"That night's devilment like to got us all into trouble, though, and the most of us discreetly struck out for Kansas to avoid any unpleasant consequences. But laugh—say, I never laughed so in my life."—Kansas City Star.

A Good Law.

A law has just been passed in France forbidding any one to give solid food to infants under a year old without the written authority of a physician. In France, too, the long rubber tubes to feeding bottles are forbidden under heavy penalties. Everywhere people are warned not to use them, the reason being that it is impossible to keep them properly sterilized.

Original Sources.

Mrs. De Style—Dear me! What a lot of society news you've got hold of—even to a full description of Miss Tip-top's Paris trousseau! Where did you hear it all?
Miss De Style—At the symphony concert.—New York Weekly.

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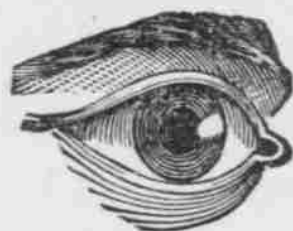
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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER.

Nowhere Else In the World Is There Any Position at Once So Powerful and So Anomalous—The Office Is Without Legal Foundation.

Nowhere else in the world is there any position at once so powerful and so anomalous. So long as he remains prime minister the premier of the United Kingdom is possessed of more real power than any single individual, unless it be the czar or the president of the United States.

Yet, great as is the power of prime minister, the office has no foundation on law. The prime minister is quite as unknown to the law as is the cabinet. If a legal pedant, blind to all facts not in the statutes or the textbooks of the common law, were asked to define the office of prime minister and to describe the cabinet, he would be utterly at a loss.

In theory the prime minister is only a privy counselor at the head of a department of state who is specially in the sovereign's confidence and who usually presides at an informal gathering of certain of the privy counselors who happen to hold offices of state—a gathering which is called the cabinet. That is the furthest which the legal pedant of our thought would dare to go. Yet, of course, the prime minister is, in fact, far more than the mere chairman of the cabinet.

The cabinet, no doubt, has a great deal of power, but even if it were true once it is certainly not true now that England is governed by a committee of 15 or 16 persons.

The prime minister, as a rule, makes his cabinet. He is commissioned by the queen to form a cabinet, because he is the man whom she considers to possess the confidence of a majority of the house of commons. He forms his cabinet by asking certain members of the two houses to hold the great offices of state. He might do this in one day and without consulting any one.

As a matter of fact, what usually happens is this: As soon as the commission to form a government has been received, the prime minister takes into his confidence the two or three who will hold the chief offices, and they talk together over the other members. When a man is decided upon, he, as a rule, joins the conclave and helps to consult as to men and places, and so the cabinet gradually evolves itself. No doubt, as generally happens in this world, the prime minister's choice is never really free.

Certain men must be in the cabinet, whatever happens, and hence they may be said not to be chosen by the premier, but to be ministers in their own right. In spite, however, of this, the fact that they are asked to serve by the premier makes them feel his superiority. When the cabinet is made, the theory of the unwritten constitution is that the cabinet governs. In reality it seldom does anything of the kind.

Each cabinet minister has very great power in his own department, but the cabinet as a cabinet can do little. Since, however, it knows everything that is going on it can exercise a great deal of indirect power. The previous knowledge that the majority of the cabinet would like or dislike a particular policy has a great influence, but still the cabinet does not rule. The prime minister summons, presides over and largely controls the cabinet meetings. If a vacancy occurs, he fills it up, and so can promote from the lower to the higher offices.

Then he can and does confer with his colleagues in regard to the business of their departments, and so has a hold upon the whole machine of government. Sir Robert Peel saw every member of his cabinet separately every day. Again, if there be a difference between two other members of the government, the premier decides. If there be an irreconcilable difference between himself and a minister, it is the minister and not the premier who resigns.

Lastly, the prime minister can, by resigning himself, dissolve the whole ministry. These things, small in themselves, taken together, make the prime minister's position what it is. He makes and can unmake a cabinet. He presides over it, and he has the right to advise in regard to every department, though this right is of course seldom exercised, and he has secured to him beforehand the support of the rank and file or of any cabinet if it comes to a struggle between him and a colleague, because the rank and file know that if the premier is beaten he has it in his power to upset the whole machine of government.

Hence the voices of those who want to keep in office are always found on the side of the premier.—Pearson's Weekly.

A Russian Miracle.

An iconoclast at a Russian convent has been hoist with his own petard in a significant way. An infernal machine was set near a picture of the Virgin Mary, in a convent at Kursk, the picture having a reputation for working miraculous cures. The machine exploded in due time and wrecked the surroundings, demolishing a cast iron screen round the picture, damaging doors and breaking down a wall, but the picture itself escaped unhurt. If there ever was any doubt among the faithful at the Snamenski convent as to the wonder working properties of their holy picture, it will be dispelled by this.—St. James Gazette.

During about 700 years the Latin language was the language of court, camp and polite society from the river Tweed, in Scotland, to the Euphrates, in Asia, and from the Crimea or Chersonese, in the Black sea, to the pillars of Hercules, at the western extremity of the Mediterranean.

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